

Cruise Report, Revelle RR1708

April 13 - April 24, 2017



Figure 1: R/V Roger Revelle in between mooring operations on April 15, 2017, north of Palau with Velasco reef to the left. Photo credit: Patrick Colins/Coral Reef Research Foundation.

Overview

The following is the cruise report for the mooring recovery and lee wave survey cruise of the Alford/MacKinnon/Voet project part of the ONR-funded Flow Encountering Abrupt Topography (FLEAT) experiment. The experiment aims at better understanding the response of low-frequency flows as they interact with the steep topography in the region north of Palau. In this part of the experiment we focused on lee waves that may be generated by low-frequency flow across submarine ridges.

Our general plan was to recover 5 subsurface moorings that were deployed in June 2016 in the vicinity of Velasco Reef north of Palau. The moorings were a collaboration with Merrifield/UH and Nash/OSU and had been nested within an additional array deployed by Wijesekera/NRL in May 2016 and recovered just before our cruise. The remaining time of the cruise was spent on towed lee wave surveys at three different sites along the submarine ridge north and south of the island of Yap. We ended the cruise in Guam.

Gear

Moorings

We recovered 5 subsurface moorings (diagrams in Figures 19-23, Table 1). All moorings were equipped with 75kHz and 300kHz RDI ADCPs, SBE37 CTDs, SBE56 and RBRSolo thermistors. In addition, mooring F1 was equipped with two McLane Moored Profilers in the lower part of the water column and moorings F2/F3/F4 were equipped with moored χ -pods which are used to estimate turbulent dissipation from thermal variance.

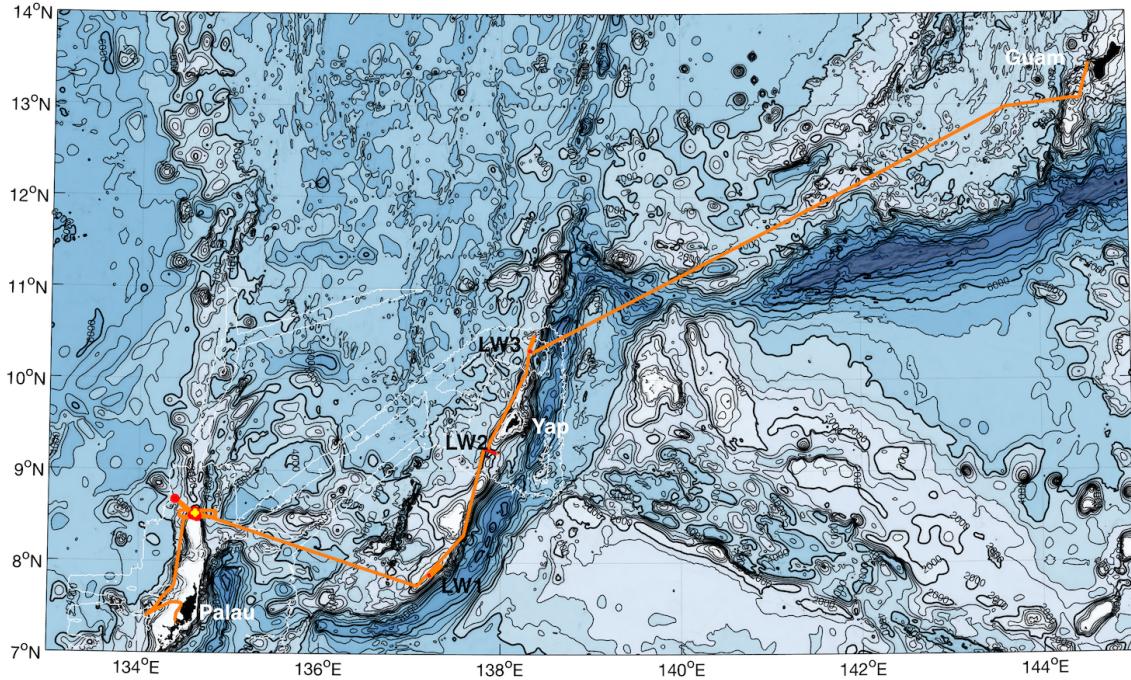


Figure 2: Map showing cruise track (orange, mooring locations (red), drifter deployment sites (yellow) and towyo sections (red, labeled LW1 to LW3). Bathymetry shown here is Smith & Sandwell, thin white contours indicate available multibeam coverage.

Lowered ADCP/CTD/ χ -pod

For the lee wave surveys we used our realtime CTD/LADCP system, which has Deep Sea Power and Light Sea Batteries and upward and downward looking 300 kHz ADCPs (Fig. 4). We attached four of Jonathan Nash's “ χ -pods” to estimate turbulent dissipation rate from thermal variance. We sent ADCP data up the SBE9's uplink channel and recorded/monitored it on our own laptop in the computer lab. We towed the instrument at speeds between 0.5 and 1.0 knots, cycling between 20 to 40 m above bottom and either the surface or some other set turnaround CTD depth.

Loadout

Timing

We began loading on April 10, one day earlier than anticipated due to the previous party being done a day early. It was a busy and hot loading day where we emptied out the 20' container with tools and equipment that had been shipped from San Diego and craned everything on board. At the same time, we also received items that were stored in one of the Wijesekera containers, mostly empty boxes

Table 1: Mooring locations.

Station	Lat, Lon	Depth
F1	008° 40.838' N, 134° 24.087' E	3390
F2	008° 30.164' N, 134° 35.508' E	1515
F3	008° 32.723' N, 134° 37.414' E	1666
F4	008° 29.862' N, 134° 38.723' E	880
F6	008° 28.962' N, 134° 38.575' E	434

from the moored instruments, and craned them on board. A small group of people organized the transfer of equipment from Jennifer MacKinnon and Shaun Johnston, stored at the Coral Reef Research Foundation, to the port where we loaded it into our then empty container. On April 11th our container and three containers of the Wijesekera group were hived on deck using a shore crane. The crane was also used to store bulky gear not needed for cruise operations on the bow 02 level. Around noon a group of Palauan high school students visited the Roger Revelle. Captain David Murline and computer tech Victor Adeyokunnu showed the students around on the ship and Gunnar Voet gave a brief overview on the research objectives of the cruise. On April 12th the science team finished setting up the deck and secured everything on deck and in the labs. We departed 1400 April 13.



Figure 3: Students and teachers from Mindzenty High School in Palau after touring the *R/V Roger Revelle* together with Captain David Murline and Chief Scientist Gunnar Voet.

Deck Setup

We set up the deck for mooring operations with the TSE-winch and a large block in the A-frame in the centerline on the main deck (Fig. 4). A wire spooler, parked in the hangar, was used to spool mooring wire off the TSE after mooring operations.

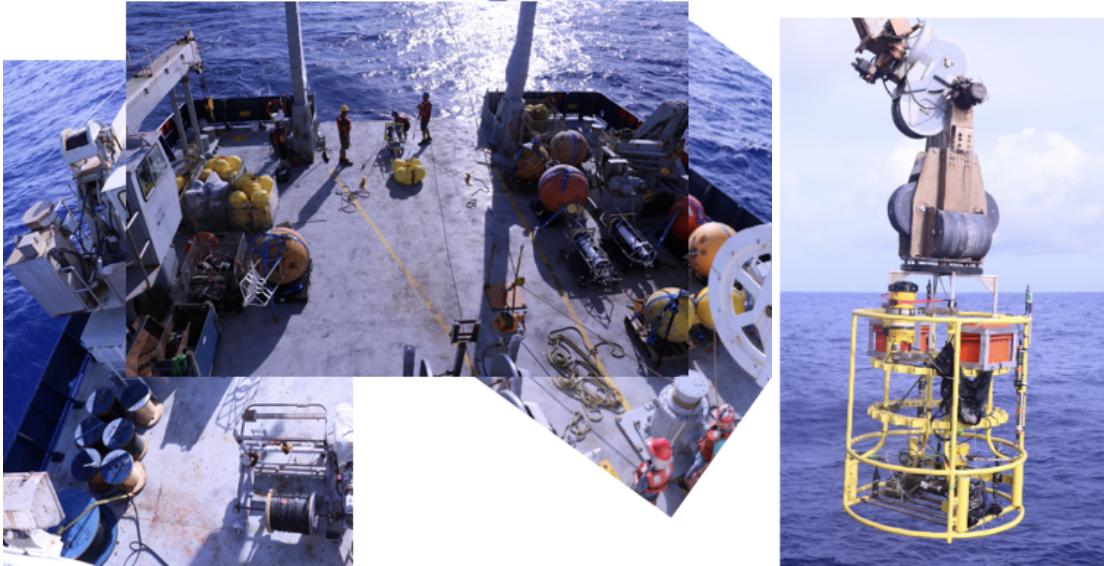


Figure 4: Deck layout (left) with TSE in the center, wire spooler to the left and capstan to the right. Rosette setup (right) with two seabatteries, ADCP up- and downlooker, two uplooking and two down-looking χ -pods and the CTD.

Lab Setup

As usual, we set up our science operations in the hydro lab and did mooring instrument work in the main lab. CTD/LADCP were operated from the computer lab and a data download station for LADCPs and χ -pods was set up in the wet lab.

Operations, Science and Data Report

Moorings

We began mooring recoveries at 5am on April 14th local time. We used the UDB 9000 deckset and the ship's transducers to communicate with the acoustic releases. Mooring locations are shown in Fig. 5. Mooring F6 was recovered before breakfast. We then recovered the tallest of the five moorings, F1, and mooring F4 towards the end of the day. Moorings F2 and F3 were recovered the following day. All acoustic releases worked flawlessly. No instruments were lost. The upper 100-200m of the moorings were covered with extensive amounts of barnacles (Fig. 6), which kept us busy cleaning instruments, mooring gear and deck for the days to follow.

A sample time-depth series of velocity from mooring F1 is shown in Fig. 7, with a zoom in on a one month period in fall shown in Fig. 8. A moderate eddy came by in mid October that knocked the mooring down around 80-90 m, but otherwise did not disrupt data. The ADCP stopped pinging for two short periods but resumed afterwards. Otherwise, sampling was perfect for the whole 10-month

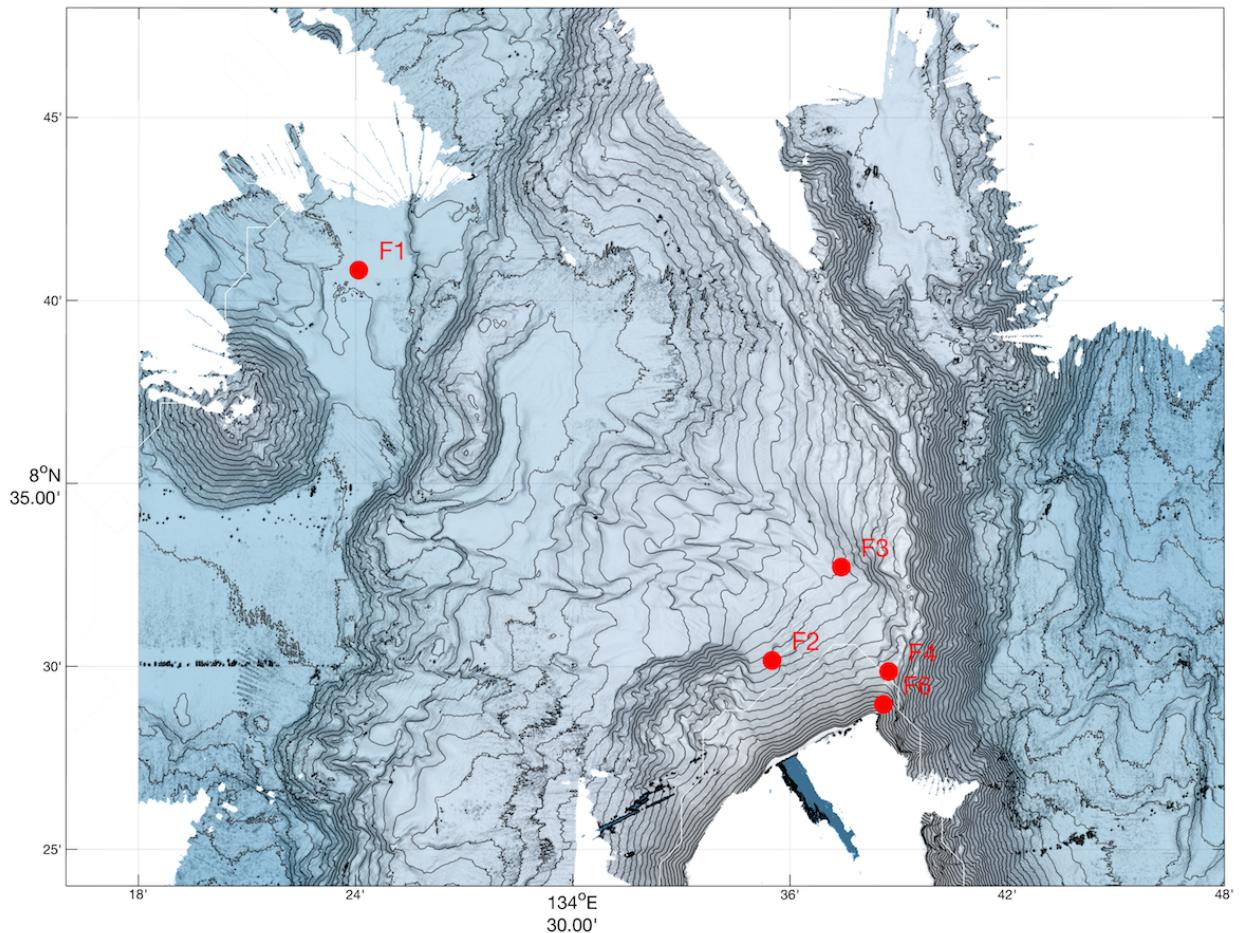


Figure 5: Mooring locations.



Figure 6: Mooring recoveries and barnacle growth. Upper left: Mika holding a grown-over SBE37 CTD. Upper right: Matt, Jonathan and Sara observe mooring wire overgrown with barnacles going through the traveling block. Lower: Overgrown 1/4" mooring wire.

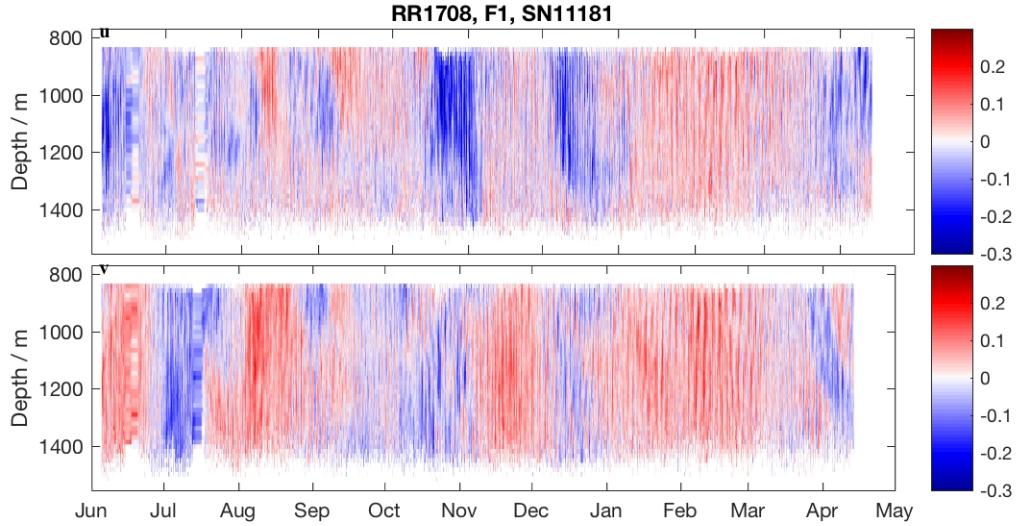


Figure 7: Time/depth series of u (top) and v velocity (bottom) from the middle long ranger ADCP on mooring F1, for the whole deployment period.

period.

Frequency spectra (Fig. 9) show strong semidiurnal and diurnal tidal peaks (and their harmonics). The mesoscale field appears as a red spectrum out to low frequencies. A broad near-inertial peak is seen at the expected frequency, which shows an excess of clockwise motions as expected. Wavenumber spectra (Fig. 10) show the severe rolloff at scales smaller than 100 m due to instrument resolution, but show an excess of downward energy propagation (counterclockwise).

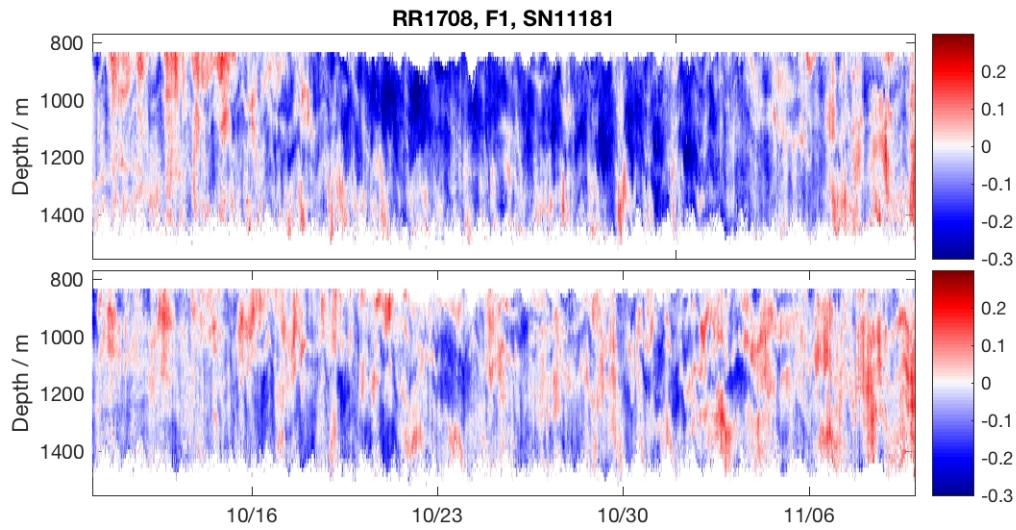


Figure 8: As previous but for a one-month zoomed period.

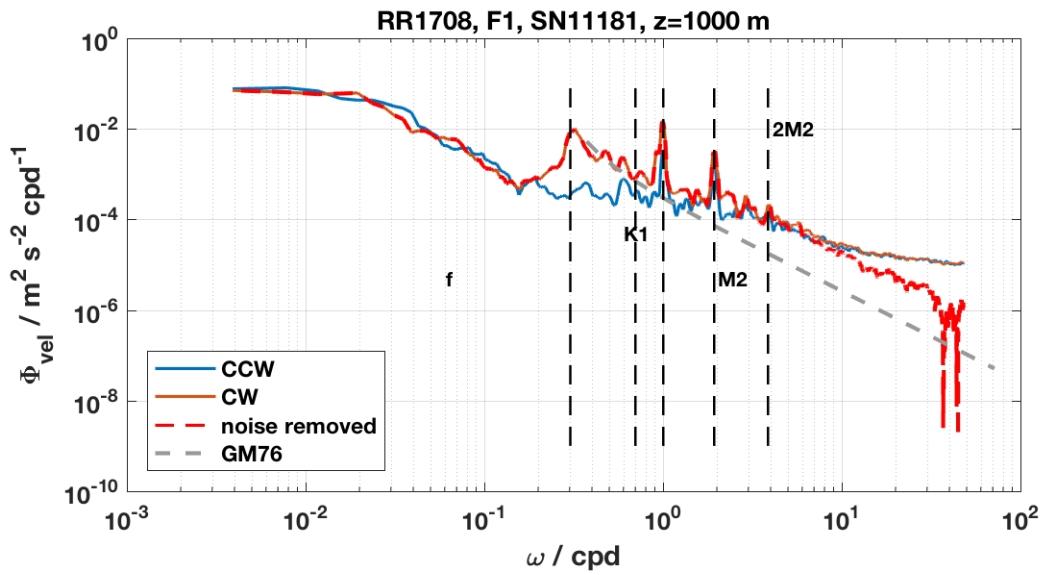


Figure 9: Rotary velocity spectra at 1000 m from the same mooring. The GM76 spectrum is also plotted.

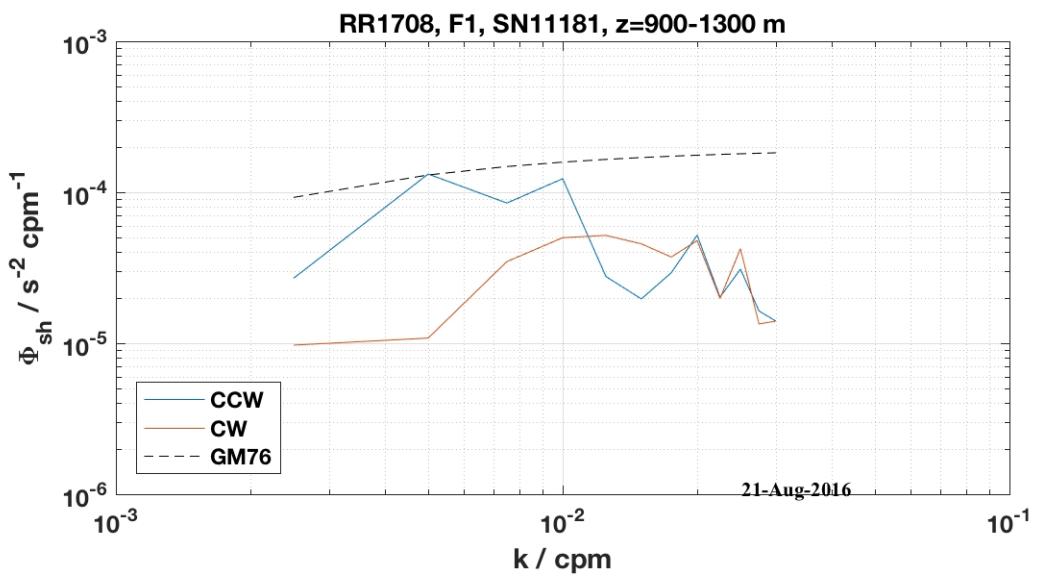


Figure 10: Representative rotary shear spectra for a single one-hour time period, with GM76 overplotted.

Shipboard ADCP survey

The night between mooring operations was used for a shipboard ADCP survey. We occupied a figure-eight pattern, spanning east and west of the ridge north of Velasco reef, at about 11 kts ship speed. The goal was to confirm strongly layered flow near the ridge as found in last years surveys, and to study the zonal extent of these layers as glider surveys along zonal lines away from the ridge did not reveal this layered pattern.

Velocities from the two occupations of the figure eight pattern are shown in Fig. 11. Layered flow, as observed during surveys in June 2016, was found over the ridge and stretches east- and westward. The sections as plotted in Fig. 11 are tidally aliased and will be detided for future analysis of the layered flow.

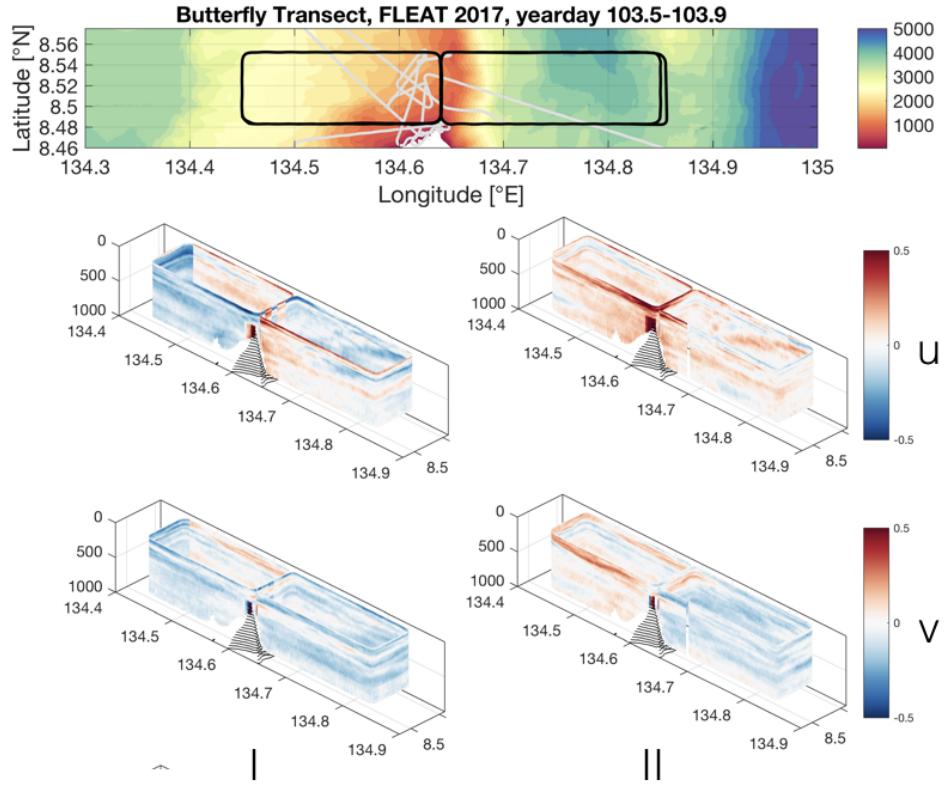


Figure 11: Two shipboard ADCP occupations of a figure-eight pattern north of Velasco reef. Upper panel: Bathymetry and survey ship track. Center panels: Zonal velocity of first (left) and second occupation (right). Lower panels: Meridional velocities. The reef edge is contoured in black lines in the velocity panels.

Lee wave surveys

We carried out lee wave surveys with the CTD/LADCP/ χ -pod system at three different sites along the ridge north and south of Yap. Ridge crest depths varied from 640 m at the southern site, 1600 m just south of Yap and 3000 m at the site north of Yap (Fig. 12). At all three sites we conducted repeat towyo sections back and forth across the ridge crests over at least 24 and up to 70 hours. Towing speed and turnaround points along the repeat sections were chosen to maximize coverage in M2 phase space. An example for M2 phase space coverage at section LW3 is shown in Fig. 13.

At the deeper sites LW2 and LW3 we did not profile the whole water column and clamped a SBE37 CTD and a RBR Solo thermistor to the hydrowire at 900 and 600 m wire out, respectively, to gather hydrographic measurements over a greater extent of the water column.

At each site, we began profiling towards the bottom with a conservative 40 m height above seafloor turnaround target which was reduced to 20 m above bottom during subsequent ridge crossings. The LADCP uplink data stream proved once again vital for towyo operations, with the return intensity of the four ADCP beams functioning as reliable altimeter.

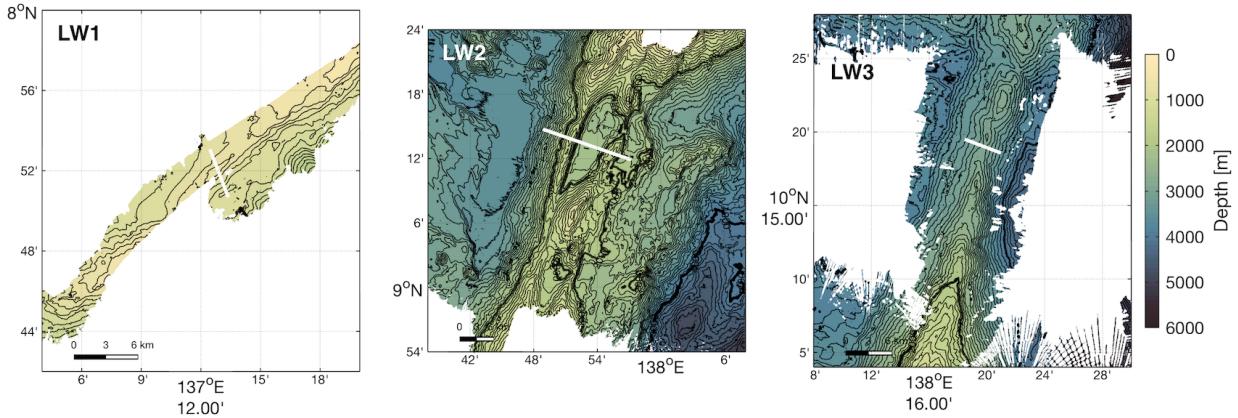


Figure 12: Maps of multibeam bathymetry both from previous cruises (compiled and provided by Harper Simmons/University of Alaska, Fairbanks) and the current cruise. Nominal lee wave survey repeat tracks are shown with white lines.

To determine survey sites over the submarine ridge along Yap we picked locations at three different depths from existing multibeam data (survey LW2) or, where multibeam was not available, from Smith & Sandwell bathymetry (surveys LW1 and LW3). At the latter sites we took multibeam measurements along the ridge to determine optimal survey lines and inform towyo operations (Fig. 12).

In addition to bathymetric data we used HYCOM model output for an estimate of current fields at depth to guide our choice for lee wave surveys (Fig. 14). HYCOM assimilates a number of observations and provides close to real-time fields. An actual comparison between these fields and velocity measurements from the towyo surveys is still on our todo list.

Preliminary results from the three lee wave surveys are shown in Figs. 15-17. At all three sites we observed wave-like structures in the density field above the submarine ridges. Wave amplitudes reached up to 300 m in the vertical at the deepest site. The wave-like features were associated with

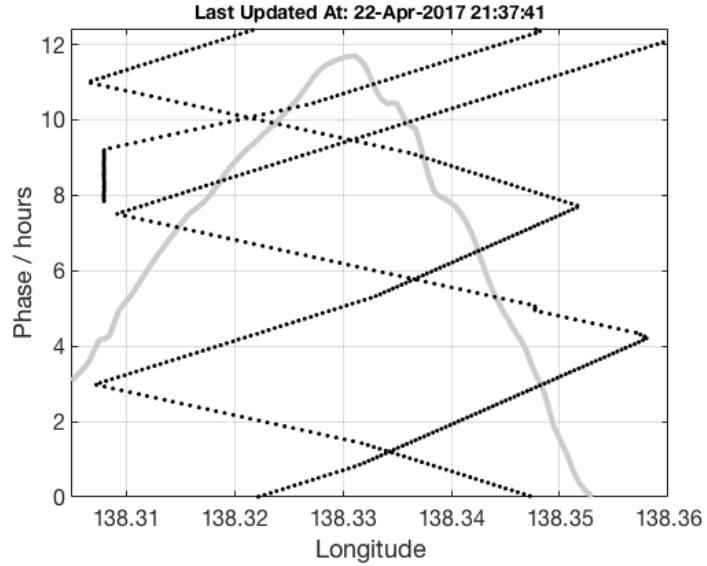


Figure 13: Phase-space coverage for the towyo survey LW3. The position of the ship along the repeat section and in M2 phase space is shown with black dots. A bathymetric cross-section of the submarine ridge is shown in gray.

high levels of turbulent dissipation reaching above 10^{-6} W/kg at all three ridges. Rates of turbulent dissipation estimated from Thorpe scales and from the chipods agreed well. Future analysis will aim at separating the breaking waves and associated turbulent mixing into tidal and low-frequency flow-generated parts.

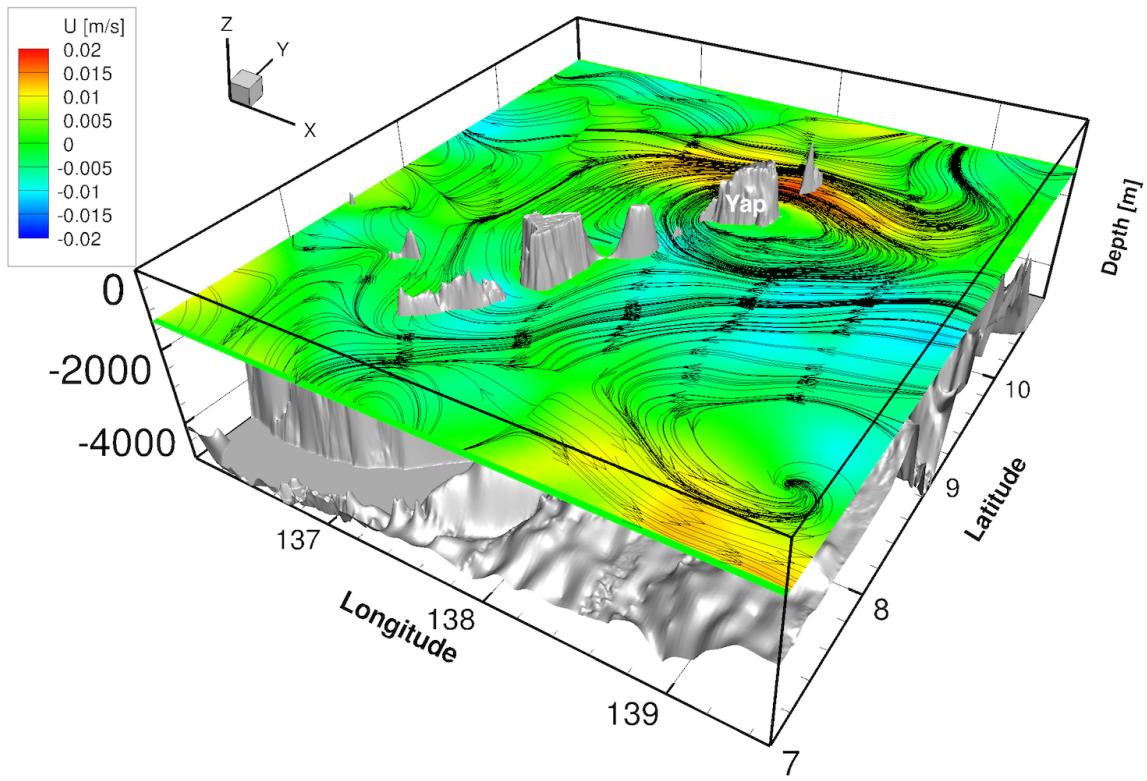


Figure 14: Example for HYCOM kinetic energy and velocity streamlines at 1250 m depth.

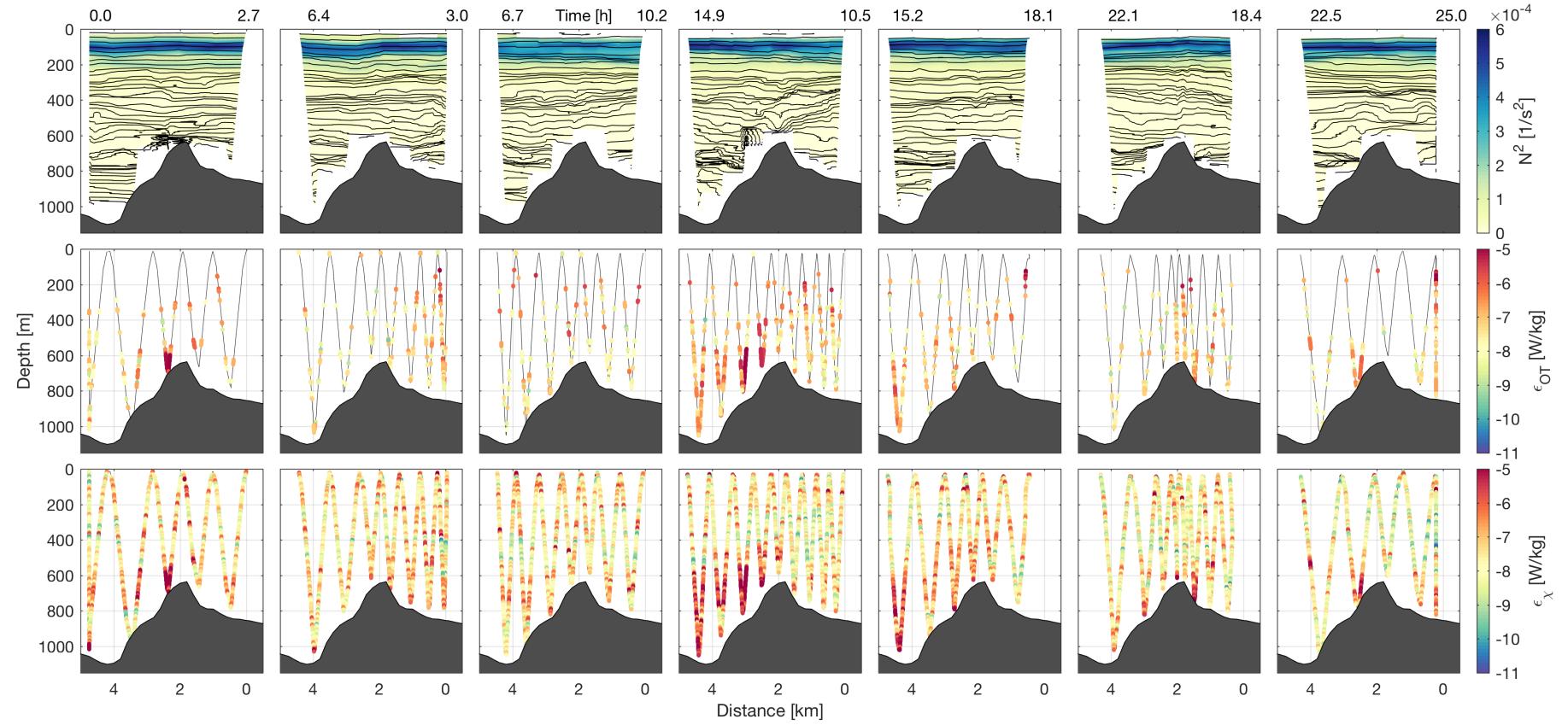


Figure 15: Towyo sections at LW1. Upper panels: Stratification and isopycnals evenly spaced in depth. Center panels: Turbulent dissipation estimated from Thorpe scales. Lower panels: Turbulent dissipation estimates from chipod data. Section start and end times in hours from survey start are shown above top panels. Approximate path of the towed package is shown with black lines on the center panels.

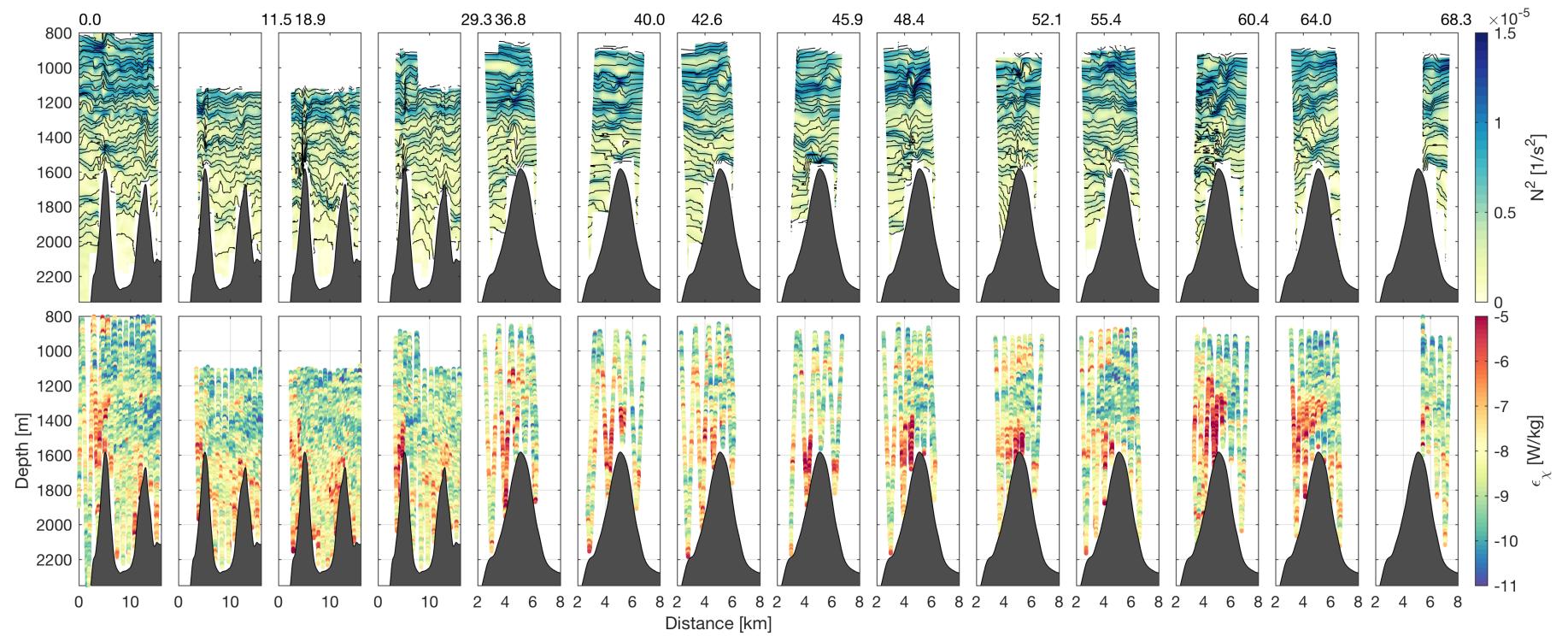


Figure 16: Towyo sections at LW2. Upper panels: Stratification and isopycnals evenly spaced in depth. Lower panels: Turbulent dissipation estimates from chipod data.

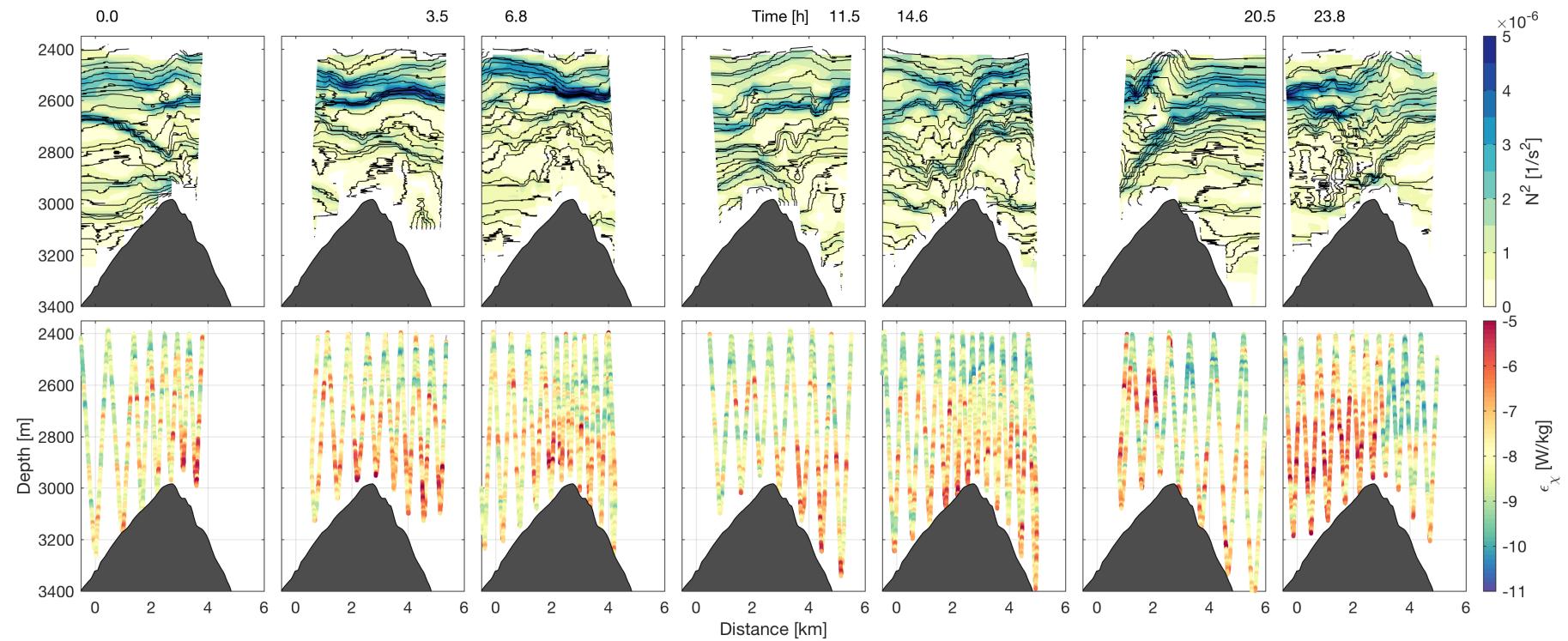


Figure 17: Towyo sections at LW3. Upper panels: Stratification and isopycnals evenly spaced in depth. Lower panels: Turbulent dissipation estimates from chipod data.

Personnel

Science party (11 plus STS personnel) and affiliations are as follows listed in Table 2. We stood 12-hour watches.

Table 2: Science Personnel and draft watches. A: 3am-3pm; B=3pm-3am. Asterisk = watch leader.

Who	Role	Inst.	Watch
Gunnar Voet Matthew Alford*	Chief Scientist PI	Scripps Scripps	A
Jonathan Ladner Sara Goheen Derek Young	Engineer Engineer Engineer	Scripps Scripps UH	B A B
Ali Mashayek Tyler Hennon	Postdoc Postdoc	Scripps Scripps	A A
Maddie Hamann* Kristin Fitzmorris Mika Siegelman Conrad Luecke	Student Student Student Student	Scripps Scripps UH UM	B B B A

Acknowledgements

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Captain David Murline and the whole crew of the *Revelle* for their outstanding support of our science operations.



Figure 18: The science party taking the rare opportunity of windy and rainy conditions for a group photo. From left to right Gunnar Voet, Derek Young, Matt Durham (Marine Tech), Maddie Hamann, Jonathan Ladner, Sara Goheen, Tyler Hennon, Mika Siegelman, Kristin Fitzmorris, Ali Mashayek, Matthew Alford, Conrad Luecke, Victor Adeyokunnu (Computer Tech) and Jim Convery (Marine Tech in training).

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FLEAT F1 2016

SLS: 1/2" shackle - 5/8" sling link - 1/2" shackle

Target:	Depth: 3390m
Actual:	Depth:

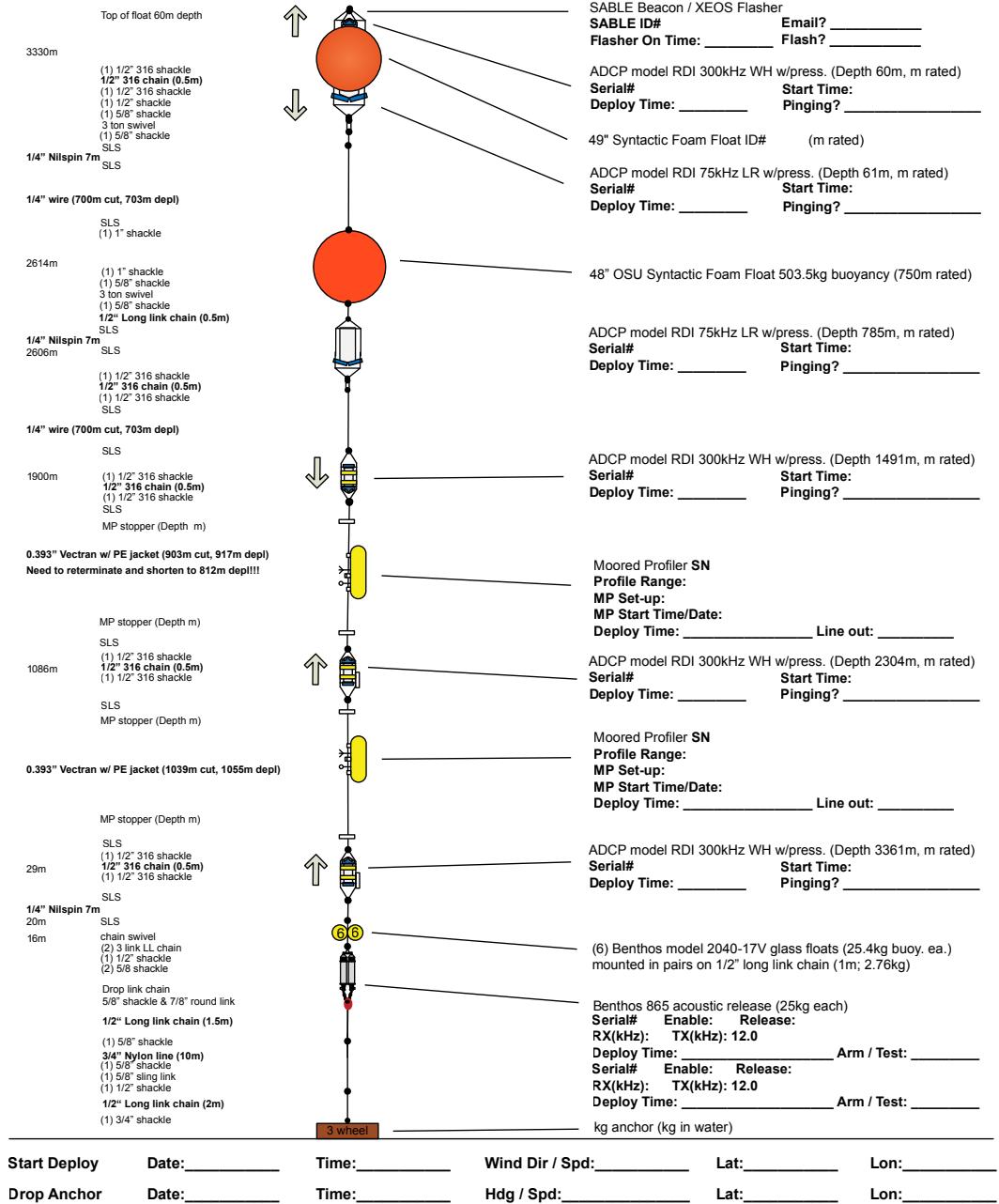


Figure 19: F1.

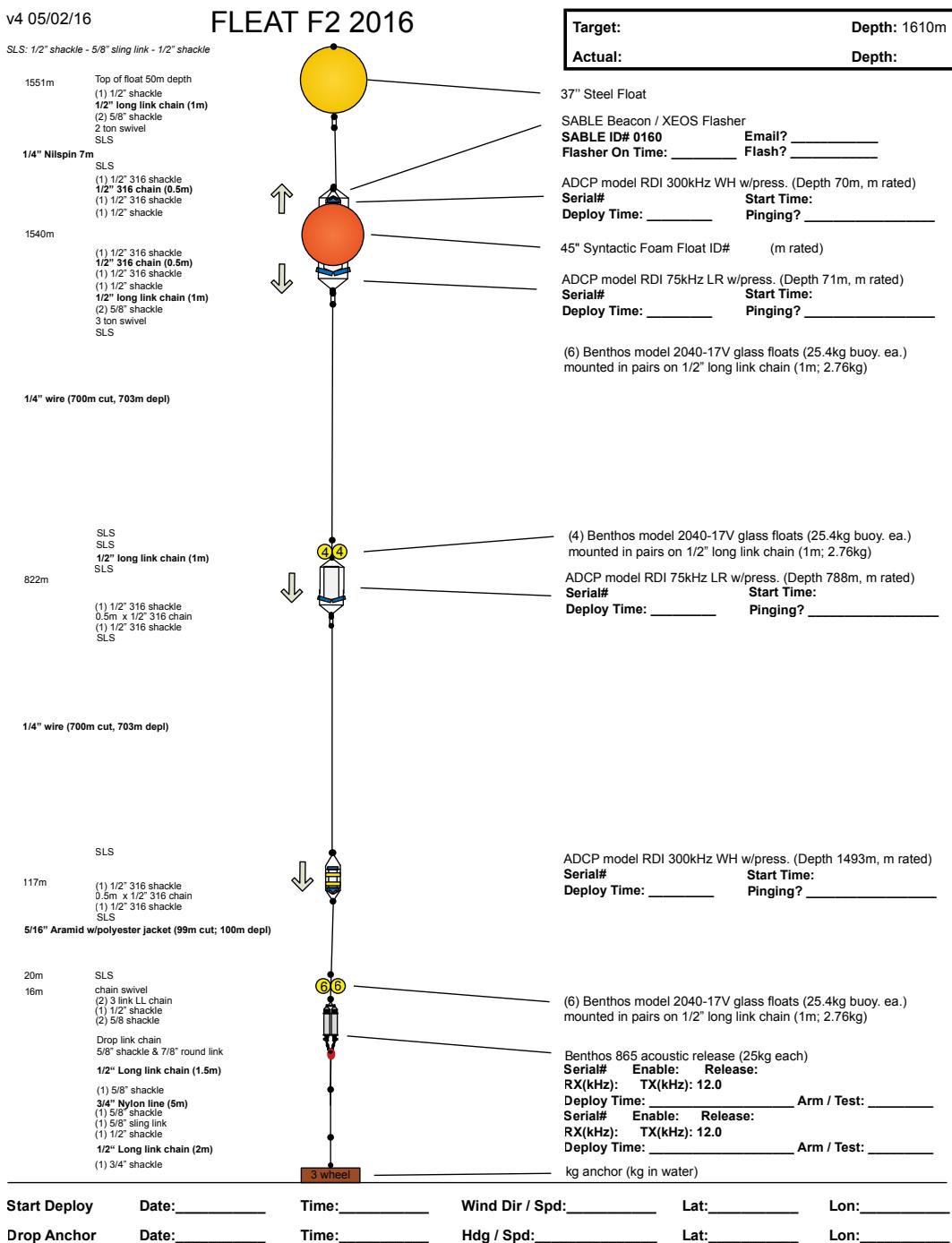


Figure 20: F2.

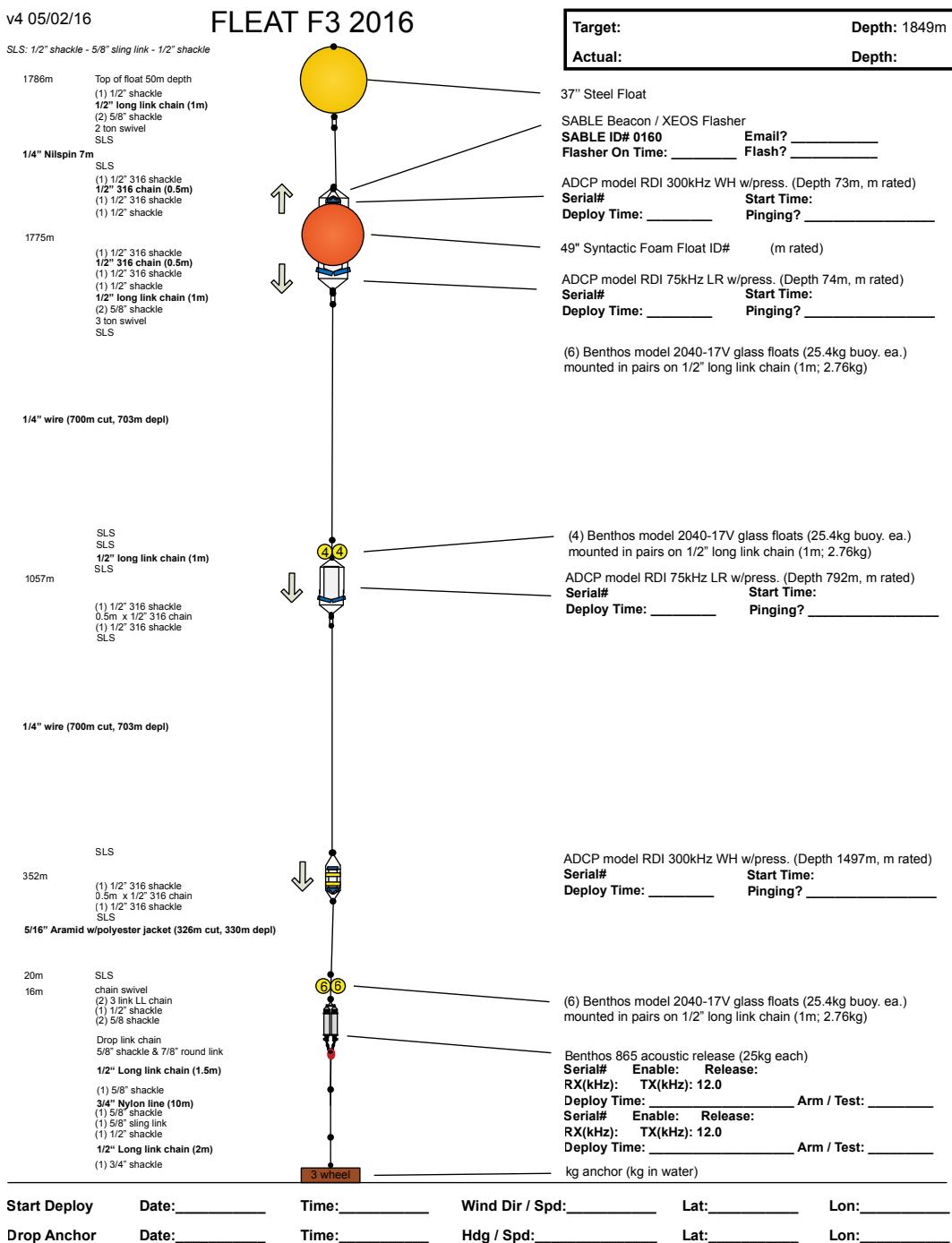


Figure 21: F3.

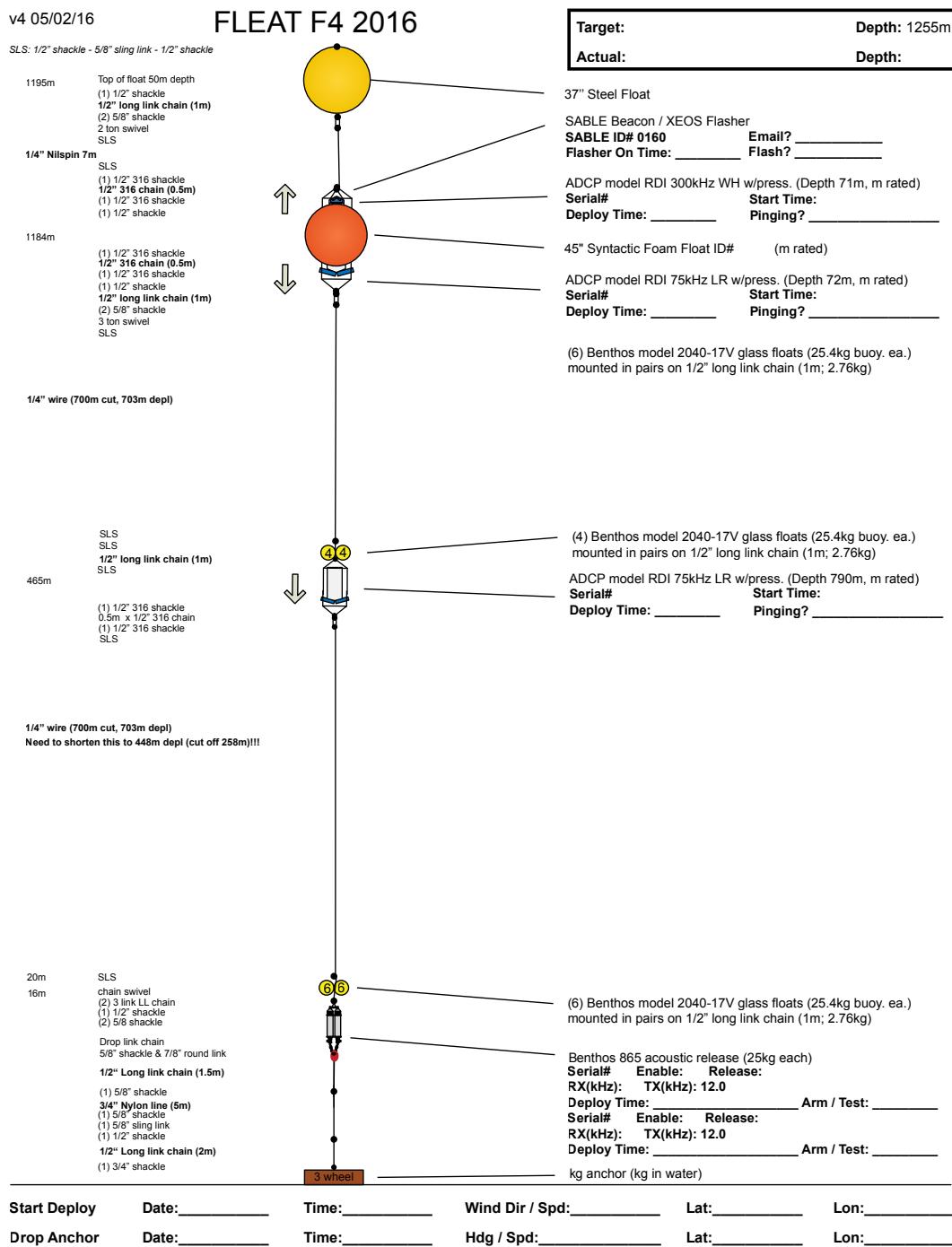


Figure 22: F4.

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FLEAT F6 2016

SLS: 1/2" shackle - 5/8" sling link - 1/2" shackle

Top of float 120m depth

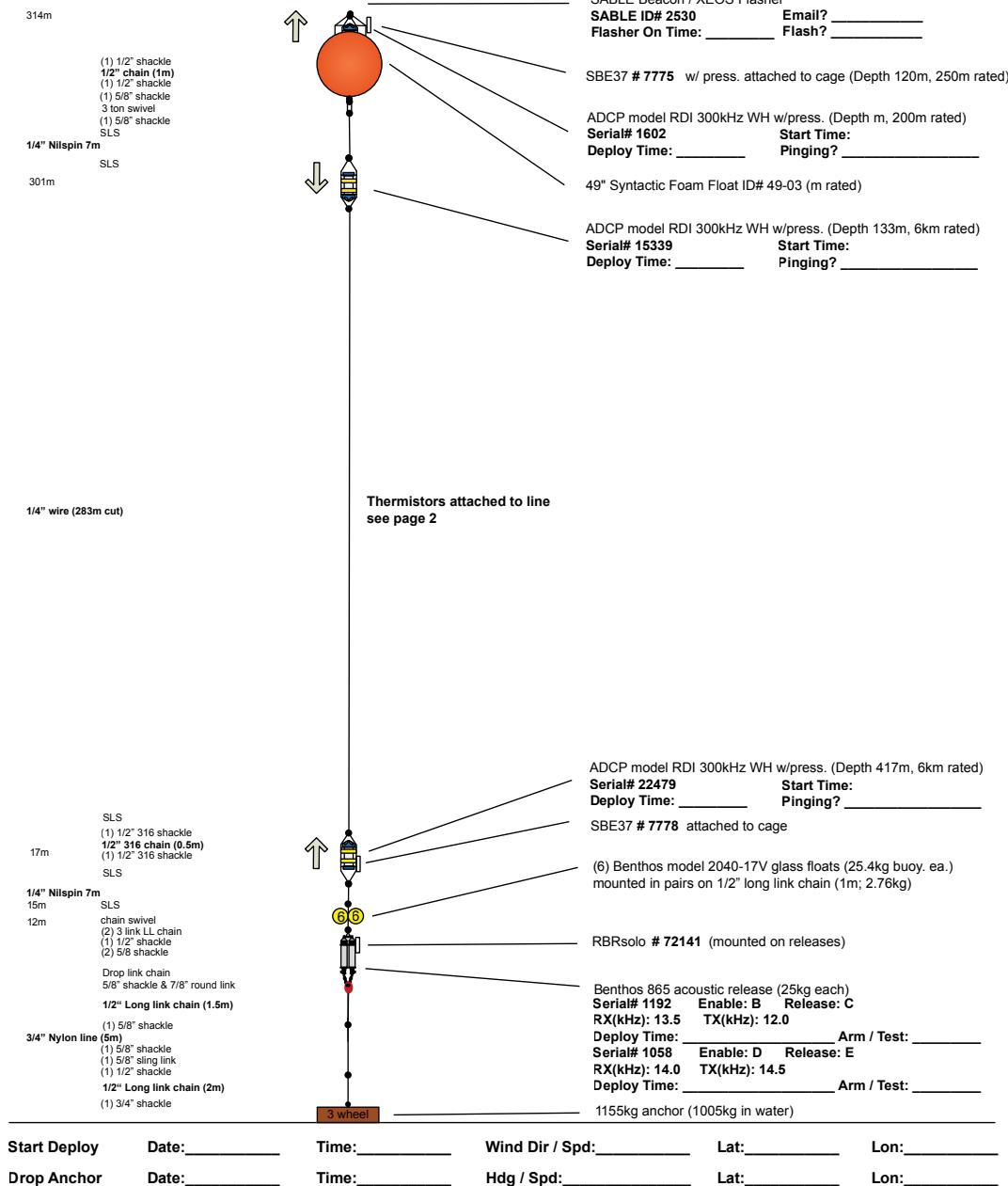


Figure 23: F6.